

Post-Event Summary Report

Name of Event: Central Midlands White House Conference Forum

Date of Event: March 14, 2005

Location of Event: Capital Senior Center, 1650 Park Circle, Columbia, SC

Number of Persons Attending: 96 registered participants (43 born between 1946-1964 and 34 born prior to 1946) The remainder of participants fit in neither category.

Sponsoring Organization(s): Central Midlands Council of Governments Area Agency on Aging (AAA) and Capital Senior Center

Contact Name: Sharon L. Seago

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Please follow this format for each priority area, with the most important listed first. **Please ensure that your organization's name and contact information is provided at the bottom of each page submitted.**

Priority Issue # 1:

Caregiving-Lack of coordinated information and referral point; lack of case management; lack of services; lack of health insurance for working caregivers; lack of reward for thrifty seniors; hospital discharge planning is inadequate; long range impact on current caregivers that has future repercussions

Barriers:

- 1.) Cost
- 2.) Employer attitudes
- 3.) Status and pay scale of service providers
- 4.) Convenience of service to family
- 5.) Lack of truly knowledgeable information and referral staff
- 6.) Support groups should meet at convenient time and provide respite at the same location
- 7.) Lack of health insurance for family caregivers who would work part-time

Proposed Solution(s):

- 1.) Increase services for family caregivers in the areas of home modification, medication assistance, in-home supports such as personal care aides and respite providers.
- 2.) Help working family caregivers by giving incentives to employers for family friendly policies and by changing health insurance policies so part time workers can access it.
- 3.) Strengthen information and referral function of AAA or county focal points, improve education of caregivers; add case management for family caregivers and provide tax credits.

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Priority Issue # 2:

Long Term Care-Need for pre-planning; need for faith community and family involvement; need for greater collaboration; need for better case management when multiple services used by clients-3-4 services utilized per person

Barriers:

- 1.) Low income seniors have trouble with SC ACCESS (a state unit on aging internet based information and referral system)
- 2.) Difficulty in getting coverage for the middle income seniors-not rich enough-not poor enough
- 3.) HIPAA and confidentiality requirements make sharing of information to prevent duplication difficult.

Proposed Solution(s):

- 1.) An increase in allocations in the Older Americans Act specifically for direct services for in-home community based services, in order that seniors may reside in their homes longer and not rely on facilities. The savings are immense and people are happier.
- 2.) The development of a continuum of care system for Case Management in order to prevent duplication of services.
- 3.) Given the proposed decrease in Medicaid funding for long term care, there should be Public Awareness/ Public Education related to planning and choices related to long term care.
- 4.) Data base that Optional State Supplement (OSS) State Medicaid /Community Residential Care Facilities (CRCF) maintain to prevent duplication.

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Priority Issue # 3:

Planning for the Future-Need for stiffer penalties and reporting requirements for financial exploitation, abuse and neglect; lack of planning by boomers; solvency of Long- term Care insurance companies; businesses only keep benefits that benefit them; need for match program for long term care insurance; tax dollars need to go to seniors instead of education; transportation problems cause isolation; need for senior driving advocate

Barriers:

- 1.) Lack of services for no cost or small costs
- 2.) Corporate America's lack of providing pensions and health insurance
- 3.) Lack of portability of retirement- need for retirement programs such as Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association-College Retirement Equities Fund (TIAA-CREF)
- 4.) Need for federal programs of retirement-guaranteed that any corporate company of certain size has to offer
- 5.) Social Security has benefit for spouses-other retirement plans need the same
- 6.) There is a waiting list for transportation for the disabled

Proposed Solution(s):

- 1.) Law Enforcement and other protocols that do not change from state to state in regard to financial fraud, abuse and exploitation. Federal guidelines and repercussions such as Korea's law to take estate if financial neglect or exploitation occurs with family

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Priority Issue # 4:

Research-Lack of funding for specific chronic diseases as well as healthy aging issues; lack of evidence-focused research and the need for improved linkage between research and practice; general lack of funding to support aging research

Barriers:

- 1.) The cost and sensitive nature of researching issues
- 2.) Ageism
- 3.) The lack of knowledge to translate research into public policy
- 4.) Definition of quality of life as distinct from a definition of quality of care
- 5.) Institutional barriers to studying the aging population, such as dementia, nursing home, hospice, etc. Academia is often encouraged to do research in other areas because support is provided in the other areas and not in this one.

Proposed Solution(s):

- 1.) Target funding to programs based on evidence-based research
- 2.) Funders should require researchers to identify practical applications of their research
- 3.) Funders should require researchers to include community collaboration in identifying issues, setting priorities for research and implementation of programs.

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Priority Issue # 5:

Healthcare-lack of access to services, equipment, prescription medications; insurance-gaps and coverage; education-health literacy (awareness, prevention); lack of funding-ways of directing funding, shifting, broader coverage; advance directives

Barriers:

- 1.) Not spending enough on aging issues
- 2.) White House Conference on Aging (WHCoA) –every ten years is not enough; discussions not addressing specific issues
- 3.) Education/Communication-“Early” awareness(take away negative re: dying)

Proposed Solution(s):

- 1.) Develop strategies that encourage and increase insurance carriers including Medicare, to cover preventive services and reimburse for a) preventive services and equipment that support preventive services and b) healthy lifestyle behaviors.
- 2.) Initiate, at the federal and state levels, a shift from high–tech services to community-based low-tech, preventive services.

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